

## EPA/ORD's IRIS PROGRAM

**ISSUE/TOPIC:** Status of EPA's Integrated Risk Information System Program (IRIS)

### BACKGROUND:

- The IRIS program was created in 1985 to provide an internal database of human health hazard assessments for chemicals in the environment. It is based in the Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Assessment.
- Over the years, IRIS has become of greater public interest and thus there have been increased numbers of public comments on the scientific approaches used by the IRIS program.
- The IRIS program has been identified, by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), as a high-risk program for problems concerning the process, timelines, transparency, and priorities. The NRC has acknowledged EPA's successes in responding to its 2011 recommendations; in its May 2014 report "*Review of the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Process*," they found that EPA has made substantial improvements to the IRIS Program in a short amount of time, and that there is institutional commitment to completing revisions to the IRIS process.
- In 2017, GAO also acknowledged that the IRIS Program has made significant improvements, progressing from "not met" to "partially met" on two criteria—capacity and demonstrated progress, and from "partially met" to "met" in monitoring (IRIS maintained a rating of "met" in Leadership Commitment). Of the seventeen recommendations issued since 2008 in GAO reports, EPA has successfully closed ten recommendations and is rapidly moving to address the remaining seven.
- Congressional Inquiries. There have been repeated inquiries from the House Science Committee and from Senate and House oversight committees about IRIS's ability to improve its approach.

### TALKING POINTS:

- OMB indicated that we should have some capacity to maintain this work and the expertise to support TSCA and Superfund.

### RESOURCES (Dollars in Millions):

Approp.	FY 2016 Enacted		FY 2017 Enacted		FY 2018 Pres Bud		Delta FY 2017 Enacted v. FY 2018 Pres Bud	
S&T	\$20.2M	80.4	\$19.5M	79.8	\$8.2M	28.5	-\$11.4M	-51.3
Superfund	\$0.5M	2.3	\$0.4M	2.3	\$3.7M	18.5	+\$3.3M	16.2
Total	\$20.7M	82.7	\$19.9M	81.9	\$11.9M	47.0	-\$8.1M	-35.1

